An Overview of University of Texas at Austin 2009-2012 Investigations of the Rogers Spring Archaeological Site

Jessica Sloan Dickson

ANT 679HB

Special Honors in the Department of Anthropology

The University of Texas at Austin

December 2020

Fred Valdez. Jr.

Department of Anthropology

Supervising Professor

_____

Marybeth S. F. Tomka

Texas Archeological Research Laboratory

Second Reader

Acknowledgments

This thesis was the product of many months of work and dedication during one of the most stressful time periods I have ever experienced. I want to thank my thesis supervisor Fred Valdez, Jr., for encouraging me to continue to work toward my thesis given the pandemic. I'm grateful for his feedback and flexibility throughout the whole project.

I also want to thank my second reader, Marybeth Tomka for giving me the opportunity to learn and grow as an intern at TARL. She and Annie Riegert Cummings introduced me to the Rogers Springs site and helped me navigate the process of inventorying and rehabilitation at TARL. I learned so much working with them! I am extremely grateful for Marybeth's advice and patience throughout this process.

Lastly, I would like to thank Elton Prewitt for assisting me in the identification of several projectile points in the site. His guidance helped me better understand the processes for creating stone tools as well as properly describe the characteristics of dart points at the Roger Springs site.

An Overview of University of Texas at Austin 2009-2012 Investigations of the Rogers Spring Archaeological Site

by

Jessica Sloan Dickson, BA

The University of Texas at Austin, (2020)

SUPERVISOR: Fred Valdez, Jr.

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the artifact assemblages of the Rogers Spring (41TV39) Archaeological Site excavations from the University of Texas field school in 2009-2012. These excavations were led by Fred Valdez, Jr. under Texas Antiquities Permit 5289. The Roger Springs Archaeological Site is rich in history and includes both historic and prehistoric contexts.

I begin with a brief introduction to the Roger Springs Site focusing on the general site location and burned rock middens. I then discuss the historic settlement by the Roger family and all of the previous excavations at the site in 1933, 1972, and 2008. This will provide an understanding of the artifacts discussed in previous projects as well as give a general overview of which middens had already been examined prior to the 2009-2012 excavations.

After establishing the background of the site, I then explain the methods of inventorying the artifacts at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL). This also includes the process of locating additional excavation materials such as lot forms and student notes. I utilize information from these forms to create an overview of the excavation's location and general

descriptions of the units represented in the report (soil consistency, proximity to midden 5, and ash content).

In the final analysis, I examine the materials uncovered during the field school and describe them within the prehistoric and historic context of Central Texas. I will focus on the typed projectile points found at the site and give an overview of the time periods that they are associated with. Based solely on the projectile points, there is evidence of human occupation from the Early Archaic through the Transitional Archaic. The final section discusses the possibility of further research with the material currently being housed at TARL.

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

Introduction

The Rogers Spring Archaeological site (41TV39) is located in Austin, Texas, was the subject of a series of summer field schools held by the University of Texas Department of Anthropology from 2008 to 2012. The 2009-2012 field schools were directed by Dr. Fred Valdez under the Texas Antiquities permit 5289. The field school investigations focused on prehistoric features at the site and the westernmost burned rock midden in particular.

The Roger's Springs site is located near the West J.J. Pickle Research Campus in North Austin. The majority of the site lies near the headwaters of Shoal Creek that feeds into the Colorado River (Creel and Walden 2010: 1). Shoal Creek's spring is a product of the Balcones Fault along the western edge of Edwards Plateau making the Rogers Spring Site an interesting study in the geology and ecology of Central Texas (Collins 2004: 105). This ecological zone was a perfect setting for prehistoric encampments as it allowed access to the resources provided by Edwards plateau to the east and the black prairies to the west with a consistent water source in between (Collins 2004: 105-106). This is likely the reason for the long use of 41TV39 evidenced by the plentiful historic and prehistoric features that have been explored in archaeological investigations throughout the past century and are described in the next section.

The historic features at the Rogers Springs site consist of the Rogers homestead and out buildings along the eastern portion of the site constructed in the 1860s as part of a land grant given to the Rogers family by Stephen F. Austin (Hume and Clark 1974). During the initial excavation of the site in 1933 (Jackson 1933: 1-2) these buildings were occupied by the West family. The construction of State Highway Loop 1 would eventually lead to the destruction of this portion of the site. An excavation led by Elton Prewitt examined the homestead and other features on the eastern portions of the site prior to demolition (Prewitt 1993).

The prehistoric features of this site are extensive and were the main focus of previous excavations. 41TV39 is home to five burned rock middens that previous investigations of the site have dated to the Archaic period (Creel and Walden 2010; Prewitt 1993). Burned rock middens (BRMs) are collections of fire cracked rocks, ash, and other debris that accumulated during the use of the site. These BRMs can be domed or annular surrounding a central hearth (Prewitt 1994, 25). They are created when archaic hunter-gatherers cook plant-based foods in earth ovens lined with limestone rocks (Black and Thomas 2014). This is an efficient method of cooking plants, but over time the limestone cracks from the heat of the fire and has to be replaced. BRMs are the trash piles created from the discarded limestone removed from the central hearth as well as other discarded objects such as bone or debitage (Black and Thomas 2014).

Previous excavations of the site have examined the five BRMs and have determined that much of the site was occupied consistently from the Early Archaic (6000 B.C. - 2500 B.C.) to the Late Prehistoric period (A.D. 700 - A.D. 1600) (Creel and Walden 2010; Turner 1999: 62-63). This, however, does not mean that the site was fully occupied during this time period. The Archaic peoples of central Texas were hunter-gatherers who seasonally migrated following the changing seasons and resources (Collins 2004, 119-120). Unlike their Paleo-Indian predecessors, Archaic hunter-gatherers did not migrate as widely as they utilized more smaller animals now than big game animals and they stayed in one location for longer periods of time (Collins 2004: 119-120). The more limited mobility among other reasons led to the development of earth oven cooking and middens at sites that were revisited over time. The presence of the Rogers Spring middens fit this pattern and are supported by evidence from the 2009-2012 excavation as well as the three previous excavations Creel and Walden 2010; Prewitt 1993).

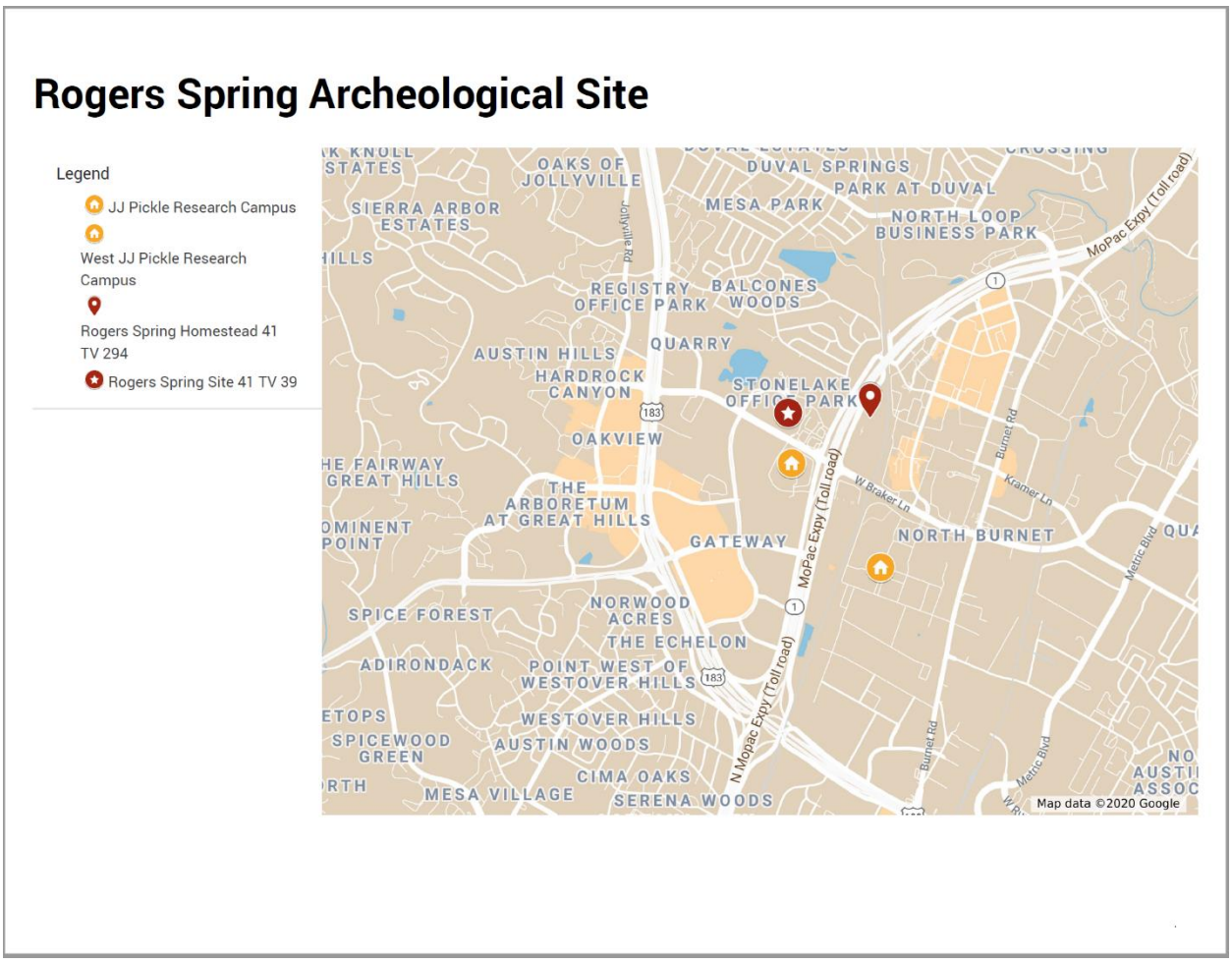

Figure 1: Map of the General Location of the Rogers Spring Archeological Site

Previous Excavations

The Rogers Spring Archaeological site has been excavated four separate times, the first beginning in 1933 and the last ending in 2012. In addition to authorized excavations there have also been reports of looting at the site as it became more known in the area. The following section is an overview of the four excavations in 1933, 1974, 2008, and 2009-2012.

1933 Excavation

The first excavations of the Rogers Spring Site took place in 1933 under the direction of A. T. Jackson, a student at the University of Texas (Jackson 1933: 1). A report of the site was created for an undergraduate course in within the Department of Anthropology but was never published (Creel and Walden 2010: 1; Jackson 1933). The manuscript is currently housed at the TARL along with material uncovered during this investigation.

Within his thesis, Jackson describes the Rogers Spring site's prehistoric features. He recorded five burned rock middens (BRMs) on the site, but only BRM1, BRM2, and BRM3 were investigated (Jackson 1933: 2). Jackson describes the locations of each midden in relation to the spring and each other as well as the details of the excavation for each midden.

BRM1 was located northeast of the spring and was completely excavated by A.T. Jackson. Many prehistoric artifacts were found including several chipped stone knives and a well preserved mano (Jackson 1933: 5).

BRM2 was located east of the spring and was studied most extensively by Jackson. His report describes a thick ash deposit beneath an initial layer of burned rock on the midden's western edge (Jackson 1933: 16-17). The ash deposit contained several chipped stone artifacts as

well as several manos, but stone artifacts became sparse after reaching layers below the ash (Jackson 1933: 16). This ash layer also extended past the midden, along the creek bank which drew Jackson to conclude that the area often hosted cookfires similar to those seen in rock shelters (Jackson 1933: 29). This living area also contained many more chipped stone artifacts than that of BRM2 itself (Jackson 1933: 39).

BRM3 is located north of the spring and was thoroughly excavated by Jackson. The uppermost layers of the midden contained mainly historic artifacts such as beads and buttons, but subsequent layers contained several projectile points and 'knives' (thin bifacially worked artifacts) (Jackson 1933: 43-44).

BRM4 was located far to the northeast of the spring. It was not excavated by Jackson as it is located under the Rogers homestead that was occupied during his excavations (Creel and Walden 2010; Jackson 1933).

BRM5 is located far west of the spring and at the time was bisected by property lines (Jackson, 1933: 48). The southern portion of the midden, which lay on Rogers property, was examined and partially excavated, but deemed a natural formation due to the lack of cultural material (Jackson 1933: 49). BRM5 was revisited in later excavations.

1974 Excavation

The 1974 excavation of the Rogers Spring site was conducted by Elton Prewitt under Texas Antiquities Permit 48 (Prewitt 1993). These excavations took place just prior to the construction of State Highway Loop 360 and State Highway Loop 1 which led to the demolition of eastern portions of 41TV39 (Creel and Walden 2008; Prewitt 1993).

The focus of Prewitt's excavations was on BRM4 located underneath the Rogers Homestead and on the west side of BRM5. The excavations around BRM4 proved fruitful as the midden was mostly intact and it yielded many historic and prehistoric artifacts including points dating from the Early Archaic period through the Late Prehistoric (Prewitt 1993). The late prehistoric projectile points were found in BRM4, but not BRM5 (Creel and Walden 2010). In addition to traditional hand excavation methods, backhoe trenches were dug in BRM4 and on the outskirts of BRM5 (Creel and Walden 2010; Prewitt 1993)

2008 Excavation

The 2008 excavation was part of a University of Texas summer field school directed by Darrell Creel under Texas Antiquities Permit 4929. This excavation focused on the south and western portions of BRM5, near the backhoe trenches of the 1974 excavation (Creel and Walden 2010).

This excavation yielded many prehistoric artifacts. The assemblage included chipped stone tools including many typable points from the Early Archaic to the Transitional Archaic period but not dating to the Late Prehistoric (Creel and Walden 2010: 6-10). There was also a biface fragment among the artifacts which was thought to be of Late Paleo-Indian origin. Additionally, there was a shell pendant that is believed to date to the Late Archaic period was recovered (Creel and Walden 2010: 14).

In addition to the prehistoric material, the 2008 excavations consisted of a large quantity of historic artifacts. These included metal objects (such as barbed wire), glass, and ceramics. (Creel and Walden 2010: 6).

Research Methods

The analysis of materials from the 2009-2012 excavations of 41TV39 took place from September 2019 to March 2020 during the author's internship at TARL. The analysis of the material was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the bulk of the artifact bags were inventoried prior to the March closures. The following are the methods for the initial analysis of the Rogers Spring site material.

The artifacts that were collected during this field school were stored at TARL on the J.J. Pickle research campus. These excavations of the Roger Springs site were assigned the accession number TARL 2010.0098 and had been stored in the original paper bags from the excavation. Each bag was labeled with the date, unit, and level of excavation as well as the excavator's initials.

Since the artifacts were only minimally cleaned after excavation and stored in the original bags, the artifacts were cleaned again at TARL to be stored. The artifacts were removed from their lot bags and washed in clean water with only bamboo sticks and cotton swabs (no harsher tools were used). Washing methods were altered for more fragile materials such as bone and metal. The latter required no cleaning as it can lead to rust and damage the artifact. Artifacts were laid out on drying screens organized by their excavation bags to dry and re-bagged in 4mil polyethylene afterward for inventorying.

To inventory the artifacts according to TARL's standards, a 4-part Specimen inventory was created in excel for the 2010.0098 material. For each lot bag, the artifacts were sorted into TARL super-classes and then classes. The provenience, superclass, class, counts, and conditions of the artifacts were entered into the specimen inventory. The main super-classes found in this site were Organics, Chipped Stone, Ground Stone, Metal, Glass, and Other Rock (this list is not

exhaustive). Weights were taken of organic materials and entered into excel. Non-cultural materials such as limestone were documented by weight and count and discarded. (Due to the exfoliating limestone substrate a lot of this material was erroneously collected as artifacts.) When sorting the chipped stone and ground stone artifacts into classes, Sue Turner and Tom Hester's book *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians* was used. This was mainly used for the initial typing of projectile points. For several projectile points, the author sought the help of Elton Prewitt and Marybeth Tomka to type the points. Temporary bag tags were created for each lot's classes.

After inventorying each excavation bag, the materials were stored in plastic bags by unit, level, superclass, and class and given artifact tags. Artifacts of the same superclass and class were grouped together and were sorted into the location they would be stored (General Collections or Lithic Other – bulk storage) and placed in boxes based on their storage.

During the inventorying process, additional artifacts were found with the same 2010.0098 accession number. These were inventoried by a prior intern and had to be reviewed and added to the current inventory sheet. During this same time period, a portion of the 2011 and 2012 lot forms was found as well as a report of the 2011 material from the fall 2012 ANT 324L class at the University of Texas (Begnnud et al. 2012). The lot forms and notes were sorted by unit and level and reviewed in order to get a better picture of the site and excavation. These general excavation notes, lot forms, and the 2012 analysis paper are curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory.

Excavation Overview

The University of Texas field school took place in July-August of 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. The main area of excavation was between the eastern portions of burned rock midden 5 and the headwaters of Shoal Creek. Midden 5 is the furthest west of all of the middens within the Rogers Spring site and was previously explored by Elton Prewitt's 1974 excavation and Darrell Creel's field school in 2008 (Prewitt 1993; Creel and Walden, 2010:1). Prewitt and Creel, however, both focused on the western portions of the midden (Creel and Walden, 2010: 4).

Based upon excavation forms and notes from the field school, the majority of 2009-2012 excavation units were placed south and east of midden 5, close to Shoal Creek. The general location of some of the 2012 excavation units is depicted in Figure 2, which was created by a student and can give some insight into the positioning of Units 200 through 207 as well as Units 189 through 193 (in the southern portion of the sketch).The proximity to Shoal Creek is also seen in the soil composition described by excavators. Almost all of the lot forms from 2009-2012 describe the soil texture as a form of dark silty clay. Silt is a particularly fine and powdery type of soil that is most often seen near bodies of water as it is created by rocks grinding against one another until they gradually break down. This soil consistency reflects the site's location near the spring.

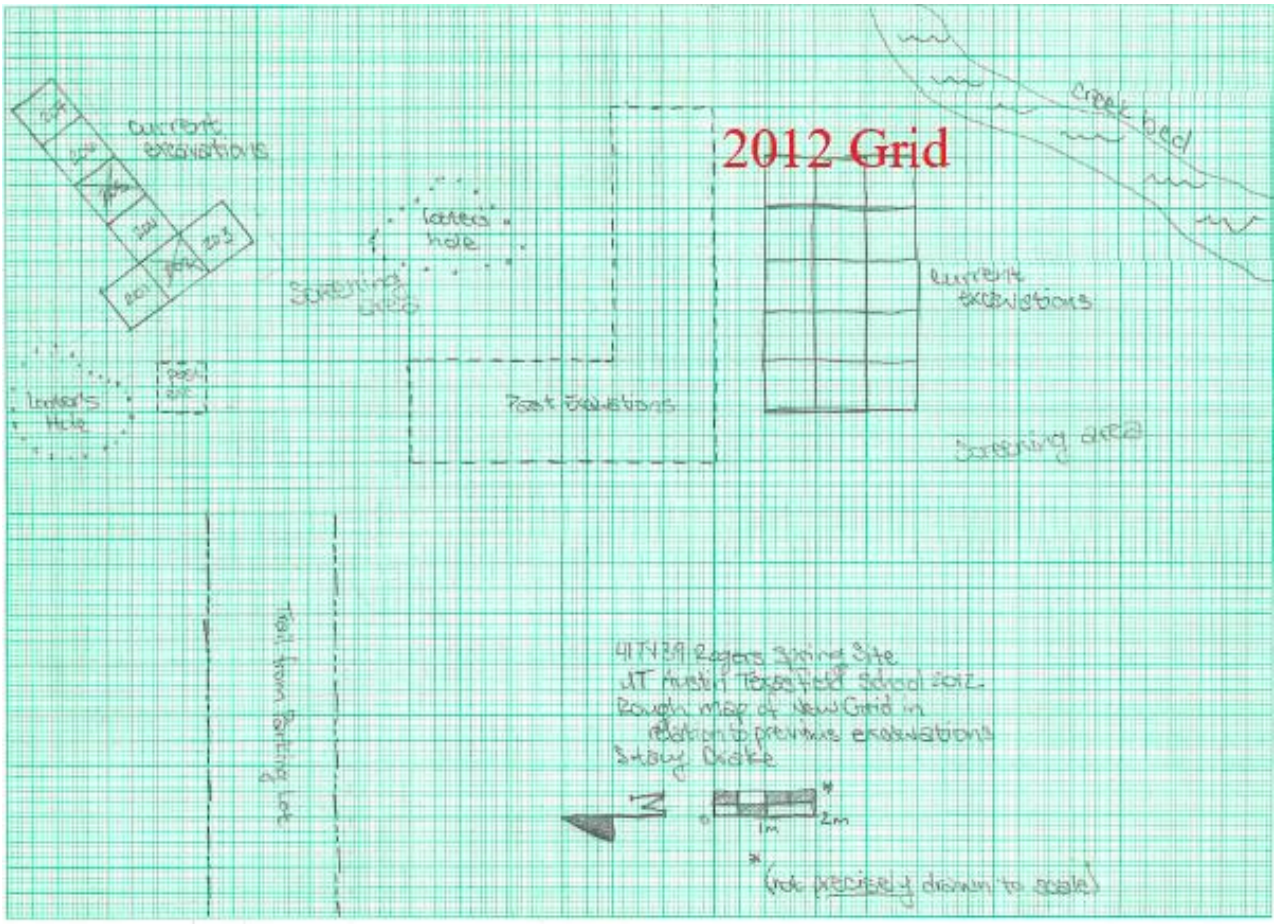

Figure 2: Sketch of 2012 Excavation Units

In addition to the silty consistency of the soil, notes from the excavation describe several units that contained a large amount of ash. The lot forms from Unit 182 indicate that this ash was present in Levels 7-8. This is consistent with the looter pit ash Creel and Walden report, "In the edge of a large looter pit on the SE side of BRM 5, one could easily see a thick ash deposit immediately beneath the burned rock deposit. None of our test pits, however, encountered this ash deposit," (Creel and Walden 2010, 6). This suggests that unit 182 may have been positioned near the looter pit.

Artifact Assemblage

Organic Material

Organic materials were common in the Rogers Springs excavation with 418 pieces of bone, shell, charcoal, and other materials recovered from almost every provenience at the site (See *Table 2.* for proveniences). Organic materials such as bone and shell can give insight into the diet and cooking methods of site inhabitants.

Bone

There were 275 fragments of faunal bone found throughout the 2009-2012 excavations (See *Table 2.* for proveniences). The majority of the bone found throughout the site was fragmented beyond identification, but some of the fragments appeared to be that of the long bones of large mammals, such as deer. Faunal remains from Unit-Levels 193-1, 204-6, 206-4, and 207-2 show evidence of burning which could indicate that the specimens were cooked or prepared for tempering pottery.

In addition to these fragments, there were a few bones that were complete enough to be identified. Seven armadillo shell fragments were found in Unit-Levels 144-2 and 178-2. There were two additional pieces of armadillo shell labeled as Level 1 but was not given a unit number. A tooth fragment was also located at Unit-Level 144-2 alongside the armadillo shell and it was tentatively identified as a deer tooth. The last identifiable bone is a phalanx found in Unit E Level 1 which appears to be that of a medium-sized mammal, such as, a racoon or large rodent. This bone is complete and could be identified taxonomically in future.

Shell

The 2009-2012 excavation yielded 136 fragments of shell. All but 11 of the specimens were land-dwelling snail shells and were considered non-cultural in nature (See *Table 2.* for proveniences). The 11 other specimens were mussel shells and were likely from the surrounding water sources such as Shoal Creek or the Colorado River Shoal Creek feeds into. Though most of the mussel shell is crushed, a few samples had larger fragments that may allow them to be identified taxonomically.

Charcoal, Macro-Botanical Samples, and Woven Objects

In addition to the bone and shell collected at the site, there were also several organic samples collected. Charcoal was found in Unit-Levels 204-4 and 179-3 and was collected and stored in foil. These samples were relatively small but could be radiocarbon dated as well as examined for their composition by future researchers. The radiocarbon dating of these samples could give a general age of artifacts found at that same provenience and create a better chronology of the site.

Macro-botanical samples were taken from the opening levels of Unit-Levels 165 and 166. These materials were not tested or identified but could be later examined to determine the species of plants found at the site.

The last organic sample collected at this site was a portion of woven cloth found in Unit 178, Level 1. The material of this fragment has not yet been identified, but it could possibly be synthetic. Since the woven material was located near the surface, it is possible that the fragment is of modern origin and require further examinations to determine this.

Chipped Stone Material

This site has chipped stone material in plenty, as is to be expected in a burned rock midden site. The majority of the chipped stone artifacts consist of debitage, but there were also many other objects such as cores, unifaces/bifaces, dart points, arrow points, and awls (See *Table 3.* for proveniences). Some of the dart points were complete enough to determine their type and general age. The typing of these points allowed for the establishment of a general chronology of the site.

Debitage and Cores

Debitage was found in almost every unit and level of this site with 23,599 pieces in total. The debitage consisted entirely of chert flakes of varying sizes and colors. Many of the pieces of debitage also appear to be heat treated. Units 144, 182, 204, 206, and 206 have the largest amounts of debitage with well over 200 flakes in every level excavated. Due to this large quantity of debitage, it would be interesting to conduct a flake analysis to assess the type of lithic production at the site. Examination of the debitage could indicate if most of the reduction was of bifacial cores resulting in bifacial tools or whether it was the reduction of cores in order to create modified flake tools instead.

In contrast to the considerable amount of debitage uncovered in this excavation, there were relatively few cores found at the site. There were 31 cores found throughout the site with most of them located in Units 125, 166, 181, and 204 (See *Table 3.* for proveniences).

Unifaces, Bifaces, Core Tools, And Expedient Edge-Modified Tools

There were 179 bifaces and unifaces recovered from 2009 to 2012. Many of the bifaces from the site were fragmented and could possibly have been dart points, but due to the ways that they were broken, and cannot be identified as such.

In addition to the unifaces and bifaces, there were seven core tools and 122 edge-modified tools. These tools were created from cores and flakes and are relatively crude with few adjustments. Some of the edge-modified tools are consistent with Turner and Hester's definition of scrapers, "large flakes of blades and are categorized by a steeply flaked working edge", (Turner et al. 1999, 280).

Specialized Tools

There were five specialized tools found in the 2009-2012 excavations and all of them were perforators (awls/drills). These artifacts appear at some of the deepest levels of excavation with one of the awls found at Level 10 of Unit 130 where it was found with only a few pieces of debitage and no other tools (See *Table 4.* for proveniences).

Figure 3: Awl (Scale: 1:1)

Projectile Points

This site contained 61 projectile points and they are present in almost every unit and level excavated. The projectile points can be divided into three categories: unspecified points, arrow points, and dart points. Unspecified points were rather uncommon, with only 6 points in total (See *Table 4.* for proveniences). These points consisted mainly of the distal ends of projectile points that could be either arrow or dart points. These points were so badly damaged that it was difficult to determine which type of projectile they were. A lithic analyst would use thickness measurements to decide if the projectile point is a dart or an arrow. Arrow points and dart points are discussed in the sections below.

Arrow Points

Only three arrow points were uncovered in the 2009-2012 excavations (see *Table 4.* for proveniences). None of these arrow points were typed during the initial inventory of the site, but with further examinations likely can be identified and help construct the chronology of the site.

Dart Points

There were 52 dart points found during the 2009-2012 excavations with the majority of them located in Units 203 through 207 (See *Table 4.* for proveniences). Sixteen of the dart points were typed during the inventorying process, but several of the remaining 36 dart points had diagnostic structures such as stems and barbs that could allow them to be typed in the future.

The typed dart points allow us to create a general chronology of the excavated site as many of the points have general time periods to which they belong. The following are the dart points found at the site and the time periods they represent.

Bulverde

There were two Bulverde dart points present in the site in Unit-Levels 139-3 and 204-1. Bulverde points are typically found in the Early Archaic period from 3000-2500B.C. (Turner et al. 1999, 82).

Figure 4: Bulverde (Scale: 1:1)

Nolan

There were four Nolan points found during the 2009-2012 excavations and two of which were found at provenience 204-7 (See *Table 1.* for proveniences). One of the points from that provenience has evidence of reworking along its distal end. Nolan points date to the Early Archaic period, around 4000-2500B.C. (Turner et al. 1999, 164).

Figure 5: Nolan (Scale: 1:1)

Pedernales

There were four Pedernales points found during the 2009-2012 excavations and two of which were found at Level 6 of Unit 204 (*See Table 1* for proveniences). Pedernales can range in size from relatively small points such as *Figure 6* to larger points such as *Figure 7.* Pedernales points are very common and are found all over Central Texas. This type of point is typical of the Middle Archaic dating between 2000 and 1200 B.C. (Turner et al. 1999, 171).

Figure 6: Pedernales (Scale: 1:1)

Figure 7: Pedernales(Scale: 1:1)

Travis

There were two Travis points uncovered during the 2009-2012 excavations in Unit-Levels 139-3 and 203-5. These points are present in the Middle Archaic period and date to 2650-2050 B.C. (Turner et al. 1999, 189).

Figure 8: Travis (Scale: 1:1)

Frio

There were two Frio points found during the 2009-2012 excavations, both were found at excavation Level 4 of Units 132 and 203. One of the Frio points present in this sample appears to have a manufacturing failure which resulted in the loss of its distal end (see *Figure 9*). Frio points are contemporaneous with the Transitional Archaic period and date to between 200 B.C and A.D. 600 (Turner et al. 1999, 122).

Figure 9: Frio (Scale: 1:1)

Darl

The 2009-2012 excavations yielded two Darl points found at Unit-Levels 200-4 and 204-3. One of the specimens found has very steep beveling along the edge giving the point an almost serrated edge (See *Figure 10*). Darl points are known to be products of the Transitional Archaic period and date to around A.D. 200 (Turner et al. 1999, 101).

Figure 10: Darl (Scale: 1:1)

Edgewood

There was only one Edgewood point uncovered during the 2009-2012 explorations and it was found in Unit 207 at Level 4. This particular point is rather small with evidence of heat treating which can be seen in the holes along its body (see *Figure 11*). Edgewood points date to the Transitional Archaic and are found throughout Central and Northern Texas (Turner et al. 1999, 111).

Figure 11: Edgewood (Scale: 1:1)

Table 1: Typed Dart Point Proveniences

Dart Point Type	Unit	Level	Count
Bulverde	139	3	1
	204	7	1
Darl	200	4	1
	204	3	1
Edgewood	207	4	1
Frio	132	4	1
	203	4	1
Nolan	204	4	1
	204	7	2
	207	5	1
Pedernales	139	3	1
	187	1	1
	204	6	2
Travis	139	3	1
	203	5	1

Ground Stone and Other Rock Materials

The 2009-2012 was not only rich in chipped stone artifacts, it also had a significant amount of other rock material including ground stone, ochre, and fire cracked rock. Non-cultural material was also collected during the excavation and this included 1087 pieces of limestone (with no evidence of heat treatment), quartz, and travertine which were recorded, but not curated. The cultural stone materials are described in the sections below.

Ground Stone

Ground stone artifacts were not abundant in the 2009-2012 excavations when compared to the previous excavations. There were five hand stones found at the site and a single abrader at Level 4 of Unit 132 (See *Table 5* for proveniences). The hand stones could have had any number of uses such as grinding plant material or sharpening chipped stone tools. The abrader is a small

stone with several grooves cut into it. It could have had many uses such as grinding or shaping other tools (Turner et al. 1999, 287).

Ochre

In addition to ground stone artifacts, the 2009-2012 excavation yielded 16 pieces of ochre (See *Table 6* for proveniences). Ochre is a pigment that can vary in color from red to yellow. It can be combined with water or grease to create a paint. This site contained both red and yellow ochre.

Burned Rock

The last type of cultural rock material found at this site is fire cracked rock. It is present throughout the site as it is a burned rock midden, but only a small sample was collected. The sample's provenience is Level 2 of Unit 179 and only four pieces of the rock were collected.

Historic Material

Historic material consists of artifacts that date after the migration of European settlers into the area. Historic artifacts are separated into categories based on their material: These include metal, glass, ceramics, mortar, and personal items. Since the Rogers Spring site contained a historic farmstead and barn built by the Rogers family, there was a substantial number of historic artifacts recovered during the field school excavations. While there appeared to be an even distribution of historic material throughout all excavation units, the majority of these artifacts were located in the first three levels of excavation.

Metal

There was a total of 65 metal objects recovered from the site including cut nails, barbed wire, firearm ammunition, and other metal fragments (See *Table 7* for proveniences). Some of the identifiable pieces were related to farming. These included a horseshoe from provenience Unit 162 Level 1 and a horseshoe nail from Unit 187 Level 1. Barbed wire was also common in the site with a large sample found at provenience Unit 171 Level 1. Other notable artifacts include cartridge casings (some of which were for a .22 caliber rifle), shotgun shell casings, and several cut nails.

Glass

Glass was common among almost all of the units with 217 pieces uncovered (See *Table 8* for proveniences). The glass came in a variety of sizes and colors. The most common color of glass is clear, but there were also pieces with brown, green, and purple (sun altered) hues.

Ceramics

Only 10 pieces of ceramic were found in the 2009-2012 excavations with most of it being earthenware (See *Table 8* for proveniences). All the sherds are small and mostly without decoration. The sherd found at Level 3 of Unit 204 was white with pink lines drawn on it while the sherd found in Level 1 of Unit 179 was completely white. The latter sherd was thought to be either porcelain or earthenware.

One of the other ceramic pieces extracted from Level 6 of Unit 203 may be of prehistoric origin rather than historic due to its location and proximity to chipped stone tools. This sherd was also more fragile and deteriorated than the other sherds. This will require further examination by future researchers.

Mortar

Five pieces of mortar were found during the field school with widely varying locations (See *Table 8* for proveniences). The mortar is grey and has a limestone like texture. This could indicate that the area excavated was close to areas built upon by the Rogers family and their contemporaries.

Personal Items

The final historic artifacts found during the 2009-2012 excavations were the personal effects. A button was found at Unit-Level 179-2 and could possibly be modern. While doing a wall clean of Unit 207, a clay marble was found. It appears to be homemade and could be of 19th Century origin.

Conclusions and Future Analysis

After examining the artifact assemblage from the 2009-2012 University of Texas at Austin field school it becomes apparent that there was consistent habitation of the Rogers Spring site from the Early Archaic through the Transitional Archaic. The chronology of this site seems consistent with Creel's earlier excavation in 2008 as he mentioned that there were minimal Late Prehistoric artifacts (Creel and Walden 2010: 14-15). Further analysis of the untyped dart points found in the 2009-2012 investigations could further clarify whether BRM5 continued to be occupied during the Late Prehistoric as was found to be true in BRM4.

In addition to reexamining typable tools, it would also be interesting to examine the almost 25,000 pieces of debitage found at the site. This could give a better understanding of the methods of lithic manufacturing at the site as well as what stages of manufacturing were taking place at the site itself. The small number of cores could mean that initial stages of manufacturing took place elsewhere and looking at the type of flakes found could prove that true. Further analysis could determine if core and biface reduction were both happening on site or elsewhere.

Chipped stone artifacts were not the only artifacts that could give new insights into the site. Organic material was found in plenty during the 2009-2012 investigation and it could give more information about the diet of the Archaic inhabitants of Rogers Spring. There were a few samples of bone including a tooth and a phalanx complete enough to be taxonomically identified. The same could be said for the mussel shell fragments found throughout the site. There were also macro-botanical samples collected during excavation which could be examined as well. Knowing the species of animals and plants found within 41TV39 could help us understand hunting and fishing practices at the site and thus better understand its people.

Overall, the 2009-2012 investigations yielded many prehistoric and historic artifacts that indicate a long inhabitation of the site. The stone tools and organic material indicates that they utilized the resources surrounding the spring such as plentiful chert, game animals, and edible plants. Further examination of the chipped stone tools, faunal and botanical remains could paint a better picture of the people who lived at the site for such a long period of time.

Appendix A: Artifact Assemblage Proveniences

Table 2: Organic Material Proveniences

Unit	Level	Bone	Charcoal	Shell	Woven Objects	Macro-botanical Samples
130	7	1		3		
130	8			2 (Mussel)		
132	4	20		7 (4 Mussel, 3 Land Snail)		
134	3	1		1		
135	7			1 (Mussel)		
138	2			3		
139	2	20				
139	3	6		49 (1 Mussel, 48 Land Snail)		
139	4	6				
139	5	3		1		
143	2			1		
143	7	1				
144	1			1		
144	2	5				
144	3	4				
144	5			1		
146	1			1		
147	1	3				
165	1					1
166	1					2
178	1				1	
178	2	2				
178	3					
179	1	3				
179	2	3				
179	3	1	2			
180	3	2		3		
181	1					
181	2	4				
181	3	1				
181	5	1				
182	1	2		1		
182	2					

Unit	Level	Bone	Charcoal	Shell	Woven Objects	Macro-botanical Samples
182	3	3		3		
184	1	60		9		
187	1	33		4		
187	2	24		40		
189	1	4				
189	12	1				
193	1	3				
203	5	1				
203	6	2				
203	Wall Clean	25				
204	4		1			
204	6	1				
204	9	1				
206	3	4		1 (Mussel)		
206	4	1		1 (Mussel)		
206	6	2				
207	2	5				
207	5	1		1 (Mussel)		
B	1	4		1		
B	2	1				
C	1	5				
E	1	1		1		
N/A	1	2				
N/A	N/A	2				

Table 3: Chipped Stone Material Proveniences

Unit	Level	Core Tools	Cores	Debitage	Expedient Tools	Bifaces & Unifaces	Specialized Tools
123	1			11			
124	1			14			
125	1			32	1		
125	3		4	99			
126	1			1			
127	1			3		1	
127	3			3			
128	1			14			
130	1			12			
130	5			85			
130	6			29			
130	7			86			
130	8			62	3		
130	9			21			
130	10			22			1
130	11			52	2		
130	12			81			
131	1			2			
132	1			1			
132	3			90			
132	4			632	11	8	
133	1			23			
134	1			6	1		
134	3			210	1	4	1
135	1			50			
135	2			9			
135	3				1	1	
135	5			243			
135	6			70		3	
135	7			78	4		
135	8			21	1		
135	9	1		12		1	
136	1			1			
136	6			25	3		
136	7			25	1	1	
136	8			8			
137	1			15			
138	1			6			
138	2			1536		1	

Unit	Level	Core Tools	Cores	Debitage	Expedient Tools	Bifaces & Unifaces	Specialized Tools
139	2			343	9	10	
139	3			194	8	8	
139	4		1	304		13	1
139	5			229	4	4	
139	6			34	5		
140	1			1			
141	1			1	1		
142	1			1			
143	1			16			
143	2		2	310			1
143	3		1	74		1	
143	4			13			
143	5			22			
143	6			50			
143	7			15	1		
143	8			4			
143	9			7			
144	1			1			
144	2			134			
144	3			183			
144	4			390			
144	5			34			
144	6			18			
146	1			29			
147	1			52			
148	1			53		1	
149	1			54			
150	1			131			
150	2			89			
150	3			25			
151	1			36		1	
152	1		1	50			
153	1			7			
155	1			19			
156	1			19			
157	1			4			
157	2A			31			
157	2B			29			
158	1			2			
159	1						
160	1			3			

Unit	Level	Core Tools	Cores	Debitage	Expedient Tools	Bifaces & Unifaces	Specialized Tools
161	1			16			
162	1				3		
163	1			1			
163	2			24		1	
163	3			27		1	
164	1			3			
165	1			65			
165	2		2	28			
166	1		3	88			
167	1			92			
167	2			2			
167	3			64			
167	4			2			
168	1			69			
169	1			4			
170	1	1		53			
171	1			2			
172	1			4			
172	2			13			
172	3	1		49			
173	1			30		1	
174	1			36			
174	2			12			
174	3			6			
175	1			107			
175	2			36			
176	1			5			
176	2			47		1	
176	3	1		124		1	
177	1		1	175			
178	1			68		1	
178	2			619		2	
178	3			45			
179	1			136			
179	2		1	212	2		
179	3		1	278	1		
179	4			62			
179	5			53			
179	9			8			
179	Wall Clean			16			

Unit	Level	Core Tools	Cores	Debitage	Expedient Tools	Bifaces & Unifaces	Specialized Tools
180	1			2			
180	2			321			
180	3			636			
181	1			9			
181	2		5	664	3	1	
181	3			301			
181	5			44	1		
182	1			185			
182	2			180		12	
182	3		1	324			
182	4			16	9		
182	5			11			
182	6			14			
182	7			20			
182	8			74			
182	9			44			
183	1			206		1	
183	2			40	5	10	
183	3			189	1		
184	1			941			
185	1			166			
185	2			90			
185	3			216			
186	1			87			
187	1			691		1	
187	2			725			
187	3			51			
187	7						
189	1			133		2	
189	3			23			
189	4			1		1	
189	5			4			
189	6			9			
189	7			48			
189	8			54			
189	9			43		2	
189	12			39		2	
192	1		2	83	1	3	
192	2			311		10	
192	5			43			
193	1	2		87		1	

Unit	Level	Core Tools	Cores	Debitage	Expedient Tools	Bifaces & Unifaces	Specialized Tools
200	3			5			
200	4			42			
203	4			153	1	4	
203	5			200	1		
203	6			99		7	
203	Wall Clean			25	4	1	
204	1			57			
204	3			223	2	1	
204	4			249	3		
204	5			233	6		
204	6			54			
204	7		3	207	1	2	
204	8	1		48	1	3	
204	9			105	3	3	
204	Wall Clean			83	2	1	
206	1			144			
206	2			163	1		
206	3			440	3	4	
206	4			610	1	11	
206	5			103	1		
206	6			603		10	
207	1			59			
207	2			588		3	
207	3			558	2	3	
207	4			394	1	3	
207	5			530	6	6	1
207	6			420		1	
207	Wall Clean		1	131			
A	1						
A	2			23			
B	1			39			
B	2			57		2	
C	1		1	86			
E	1			102			
F	1			1			
G	1		1	37		1	
N/A	1						
N/A	N/A			221		1	

Table 4: Projectile Point Proveniences

Unit	Level	Typed Dart Points	Unspecified Points	Untyped Arrow Points	Untyped Dart Points
134	3				2
135	3				5
135	5				
135	9		1		
139	3		3		
139	4		1		
143	3				1
143	6				1
148	1				1
149	1				1
157	1			1	
160	1			1	
163	3				1
180	3				1
182	3				1
182	6				2
186	1				1
187	1	2		1	
187	2				1
189	12				1
192	1				2
192	2				1
193	1				1
200	4	1			
203	4	1	1		
203	5	1			2
204	3	1			1
204	4	1			
204	5				1
204	6	2			1
204	7	4			
204	8				1
206	2				1
206	6				1
207	1				1
207	2				2
207	4	1			
207	5	1			
207	6				2

Table 5: Ground Stone Material Proveniences

Unit	Level	Abraders	Hand Stones
132	4	1	2
137	1		1
143	2		1
204	8		1

Table 6: Other Rock Material Proveniences

Unit	Level	Ochre	Fire Cracked Rock
130	7	1	
132	4	2	
135	1	1	
139	2	1	
143	2	1	
178	1	1	
179	2		4
180	3	5	
204	7	1	
207	5	1	
207	Wall Clean	1	
N/A	N/A	1	

Table 7: Metal Material Proveniences

Unit	Level	Cut Nails	Farm Related Metal	Firearm Parts or Arms	Other Metal Objects	Metal Tools
150	2				1	
152	1					1
153	1				1	
155	1					1
156	1					4
158	1					1
159	1					2
160	1					
161	1					4
162	1		1(Horseshoe)			
164	1			1		2
165	1					1
171	1		1			
173	1					1
178	2	1			2	
181	2			1		1
182	1			1		
184	1					1
187	1		1 (Horseshoe Nail)			
189	1				1	
189	12				1	
200	3				1	
203	5	1			2	
204	3				5	
204	4				3	
204	9				1	
206	3				3	
206	4					2
206	6				1	
207	3					
207	5				1	
207	6				1	
B	2				1	
C	1	2		1	1	1
E	1		1		4	
N/A	N/A				1	

Table 8: Other Historic Material Proveniences

Unit	Level	Mortar	Earthenware	Porcelain	Container/ Vessel Glass	Other Ceramics	Personal
126	1				1		
132	3				2		
135	1		1				
138	2				3		
143	2				2		
144	1				1		
144	2				2		
144	3				1		
149	1				1		
155	1				3		
157	1				3		
160	1				1		
161	1				1		
165	1					2	
171	1				1		
177	1				2		
178	2				9		
179	1			1			
179	2				16		1 (Button)
180	3				1		
181	2				18		
182	1				12		
182	2				1		
182	4				3		
183	2				1		
183	3				4		
184	1	1			1		
185	1				6		
185	2				4		
186	1				4		
187	1				7		
189	1	2	1		1		
189	12				1		
192	1				9		
192	2		1		2		
192	5	1					
193	1				1		
203	4		1		2		
203	5				1		

Unit	Level	Mortar	Earthenware	Porcelain	Container/ Vessel Glass	Other Ceramics	Personal
203	6					1	
204	3		1		3		
204	4				4		
204	Wall Clean				1		
206	2				1		
206	3				1		
206	4				2		
206	6				1		
207	3				2		
207	5				3		
207	6				3		
207	Wall Clean						1 (Marble)
A	1				41		
A	2		1		1		
B	1				2		
B	2				1		
C	1				17		
E	1				3		
F	1	1					
G	1				2		
N/A	N/A				1		

References

Black, Stephen L. and Thomas, Alston V. 2014. “Hunter-Gatherer Earth Ovens in the Archaeological Record: Fundamental Concepts.” *American Antiquity* 79 (2): 204-226

Begnnud, Danielle, Kjerstin Bjerga, Melissa Daylong, Anne Marie Fraley, Anna Hornsby, Jaclynn Jackson, Simone Siegel, and Bryn Stotmeister 2012. *Artifact Analysis of Material from the 2011 Excavations at the Rogers Spring Site Travis County Texas* Unpublished manuscript on file, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin.

Collins, Michael B. 2004 “Archeology in Central Texas.” In *The Prehistory of Texas*, edited by Timothy Perttula, 101-126. Texas A&M University Press, College Station

Creel, Darrel and Samantha Walden. 2010. *The 2008 Test Excavations at the Rogers Spring Site (41TV39), Travis County, Texas*. Unpublished manuscript on file, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin.

“Details - Rogers, Edward H., Homestead - Atlas Number 2074002094.” Texas Historic Sites Atlas. Texas Historical Commission. Accessed March 8, 2020. https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/2074002094/print.

Prewitt, Elton R. 1994. “Burned Rock Middens: A Summary of Previous Investigations and Interpretations.” *The Burned Rock Middens of Texas: An Archaeological Symposium*, Edited by Hester, Thomas R., 25-32. Austin, TX: University of Texas at Austin, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory

Hume, Gary L. and John W. Clark. 1974. *Edward H. Rogers Homestead (Site 41TV294)*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1974)

Jackson, A. T. 1933. *Excavations of Rogers Springs Mounds in Travis County, Texas*. Unpublished manuscript on file, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin.

Prewitt, Elton R. 1993. *The Rogers Spring Site, 41TV39:1974 Excavations.* Unpublished manuscript on file, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin.

"Rogers Spring Archaeological Site Map." n.d. Map. Google Maps. Accessed March 14, 2020. https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1LggES0ZY0wPDaPD6jpxwq3i5qxC4mrOv&ll=30.398857355903637%2C-97.7289113010283&z=14.

Turner, Ellen Sue, Thomas R. Hester, and Kathy Roemer. 1999. *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. Houston, TX: Gulf Pub.